

## [Mrs. Sarah M. Bonds]

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[Karen?], Ivey G.

November 22, 1936.

Lubbock County

District 17

Public Gatherings.

Quiltings.

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Mrs. Sarah [?] Bonds,

[?] 17th St.,

Lubbock, Texas.

When Mrs. Sarah H. Bonde [came?] Lubbock in July 1921, the First Methodist [?] was already established here. The Reverend E. [?]. White, former pastor of the first Methodist Church of Waco, was at that time pastor of the Lubbock Church. Mother [?], as most of her friends lovingly call her, worshipped at this church until the little church was built on the corner of 19th Street and Avenue J. then she moved her membership there, as this was only two blocks from her home.

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"I had accompanied Brother and Sister Write one afternoon on a trip to one of the circuit churches. "Mother Bonds [?] " And coming home they pastor told me that we were going to build another church in Lubbock."

"Well, Brother Edgar, I am so glad". Mother Bonds said she told him. "I like the First Church, but it seems like there just isn't much for me to do there, I want to be at work, I want to serve the Lord."

"You will have some work to do over there," She said he promised her. "Sure enough, I did too, and I enjoyed it so much."

"In June [?] we had a tent meeting [it?] was grand. [we?] had one [?] feature about it [?], and that was that the wind was so terrific that we had a hard time keeping the tent up. The men would go up there and retie the ropes [?] it all fixed up for [??], then as like as not it would blow and flop as all during the sermon that some of the women would get real nervous."

"But we finally got our [?] church built". Mother Bonds went on. "Brother Dickinson was the first pastor we had and after that we had Brother Walker with us."

"The ladies of the church did all they could to help out with the finances, [we?] had some rummage sales, I used to not [?] in things like that, and would not take 2 my part in them". Mother Bonds folded her tiny hands in her lap and gazed at the blue [?] flames in the little gas heater. "I got to thinking things over though, and I [?] to see/ these things some differently to what I did a few years ago - I guess that it is the understanding and wisdom that comes with age . I am getting close to 70 now, and have decided that if we need money to carry on the good work of the Lord , - it is [?] alright to make it doing these things, if we do not [?] the Lord's house by holding these socials and markets in the church. Now I still think that any money exchanges should not be conducted in the temple of God, and when we had our rummages we had them down town and I went in and [?]

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what I could to help raise the money. I said to myself, "Here is a dress that some woman can get a lot of good wear out of and it will bring in another quarter for the church'. So it helped two ways".

"One of the nicest things we ever had was a quilting. Each member gave a dime, or what ever she felt that she could spare to give on the quilt and we put the amount given on a little block and put the member's name on the block, if she wanted it on there, [?] some /of the members only put the amount given and left their names off. One member did that who had given \$10.00 on the quilt." Mother Bonds smiled and grew silent for a moment, while her eyes took on a dreamy expression.

"When we got enough blocks we pieced them up and set to work to quilt it out". The little old lady roused herself and continued. "Some of the members lived so far out that they could only get in once in awhile to work on it. But my, how we did enjoy the times we did all get together . [gatherings?] like that are good for women".

"Did we sell it? of / course we sold it, though it was not so easy to do, money was kind of scarce then, and one of the members finally bought it for \$5.00, but all together that quilt brought the church \$90.00. It certainly did help us out."

"Do I remember who give gave the \$10.00 [why?] yes I reckon I do alright - I do not see though that there is any need to tell that - but I give gave it myself". The dear old lady laughed and her face flushed with embarrassment. "I got a good deal of pleasure of [?] work though and I am happiest when I am working for the Lord. Every time I take the 3 [?] out to use it, I get to thinking of the [?] we all worshipped in the little church on the corner. Nearly everybody was nice to us and helped us all they could in [?] things , [we?] had our quilt on display at [?] for awhile down town for [?], before I bought it."

Another old custom, now about crowded out of our fashionable churches, that [??] / Bonds likes is the children's penny jar. She says it gave each child an opportunity to make an individual offering which sometimes meant some little personal sacrifice on their parts and

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helped to train them to feel that they had an obligation to the church and that the penny jar was a beginning of their education in learning to meet their [?] responsibilities toward helping to carry on and promote the christian work being done by their church and other [?] religious organization. Besides the good it does the little children, Mother Bonds says that the pennies count up and really help the church more than some people realize. She illustrated this by explaining that in one town [?] where she lived , in the pennies saved from the children's penny jar helped[?] pay the pastor's salary. The little fellows, she said, felt a great pride in having helped[?] pay the preacher.

The Methodist Church on the corner of 19th Street and Avenue J. was discontented when it was decided to build a larger church in the southwest part of town. This property was sold and in [1929?] the Asbury Church was erected on Avenue U, just south of 1st street. [?] D. B. Dock was Presiding Elder of this district at that time and Reverend G. P. [??] was pastor in charge of the new church.

"Yes, I like the new church," Mother Bonds said proudly, " Only it is a little far [?] me to go at my age". and she added wistfully, "Now that I am so alone [?] all the church work and the gatherings that the women have mean even more to me than they did in the years before my husband died, these things help me to pass the time[?] [I?] can stand the loneliness better when I have something to do, and can work for the Lord."